

## Ground Operations- Trail Maintenance and Support (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700594

### 1. Project Description

#### A. Statement of GO Activity

For the Jawbone Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Dove Springs open area, and Rand Mountains Management Area (RMMA) trail networks, on going trail maintenance is urgently important due to the extraordinary number of users experienced by these trails. As trails become "whooped out" or develop washboards or washouts, users seeking to avoid the rough spots gradually ride to the outside resulting in unnecessarily wide trails. Poor trail conditions can also result in users creating their own paths of travel outside of the designated route network, which endangers the sensitive resources. Regular and on going trail maintenance is essential to preserving a safe and environmentally compatible network of designated routes of travel.

Trails that are groomed attract a greater number of motorized users than those that are not groomed. Through regular maintenance, trails with deep "whoops" and washboards will be smoothed, and trails that develop rain ruts will be repaired. Even normal wear and tear would be corrected periodically to prevent trails from being widened by users.

There are five tasks that make up this specific project that consist of the following:

Task #1: The FOJ will focus on the maintaining of larger access roads and trails in coordination with the Land Manager. Our tasks will utilize equipment i.e. grader and tractor gannon box best suited for use on wider roads and will leave other smaller more narrow type repairs/maintenance to the BLM using much smaller equipment i.e. a SWECO and John Deer dozer.

Under a regular maintenance schedule we can achieve better user satisfaction with the designated trail network, and thereby better protect the areas resources. To support the rigorous maintenance requirements of these trails, it is important that we hire full time equipment operators/maintenance workers for the truck mounted self contained auger system, which are included as part of this project application.

This project overall enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts.

The primary purpose of this task is to encourage on-trail use and discourage and ban off-trail travel.

Task #2: The FOJ are asking for funding to use contract portable toilets to be placed in the town of Randsburg Kern County areas to support up to five major national holiday weekends per year, there will be a two standard toilet, one handicap with wash station made available to the public during those times. These are necessary due to the extreme large numbers of visitors to these areas.

Task #3: In our continuing efforts to promote responsible riding habits and respect for the environment, we are asking for the hiring of two Park Attendants to be on the ground as part of our outreach programs to keep in touch with the visitors a little more closely and be a very visible presence primarily to assist visitors and monitor crowds and direct Law enforcement officers to problem areas and or inform them of suspicious or illegal activities. The intention is to offer more direct contact to our visitors and by helping keep areas clean and clear of trash etc. It is important to realize that while some duties seem duplicate of Land managers duties or tasks, that FOJ performs its work in an entirely different project area then that of our BLM counter parts, so duplication is pretty much eliminated.

Task #4: There is a need for The FOJ to support as much on-equipment maintenance as possible to reduce costs of ownership and also reduce down time on high use equipment/vehicles. This task is to purchase a limited amount of shop tools/equipment necessary to perform on equipment repairs, replacements and troubleshoot equipment problems within the capability of our hired or volunteer work force.

## **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

The route network was carefully planned to reduce and avoid impacts to sensitive natural and cultural areas. The network was created in part by using a decision tree that evaluated the need for access versus the potential for negative impacts. Access was generally provided to these locations on a limited basis as the decision tree favored protection of sensitive resources. This project enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts.

The OHV Open Area is clearly separated from all highway uses by existing and maintained fences, and there are no highway crossings within the project area. With more users staying on maintained trails, we can expect fewer illegal highway crossings.

Mojave Desert communities that enjoy this desert route connectivity are California City, Randsburg, Johannesburg, Red Mountain, and Kelso Valley. These linkages provide important services for users, such as food and fuel, and help visitors and local businesses connect with each other.

The FOJ in conjunction with the BLM Ridgecrest FO, routinely work together to update existing maps when funding is available, that depict a variety of symbolism necessary to identify trail/route structures in the area, special features such as camp sites open areas, closed/off limits areas, key points of interest, rider skill levels of selected routes/trails.

This project will assist in maintaining areas which can see as many as 841,342 visitor use days per year

## **C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles**

The Jawbone-Butterbrecht ACEC consist of approximately 211,000 acres (153,000 BLM and 58,000 private properties), while the Rands area covers some 65,000 acres/Dove Springs, These areas account for about 346 miles of active/legal OHV trail usage.

This area consists of joint use agreements with the BLM, and Private sector.

## **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Jawbone Canyon OHV Open Area provides exceptional connectivity to several state, regional and national trail systems, such as the State Motorized Trail System and the important Pacific Crest Trail for non-motorized use. Other trail systems that connect to this network are those of: Sequoia National Forest; the West Mojave Plan, as administered by the Ridgecrest Field Office of the BLM, and including the El Paso Mountains and Rand Mountains; Red Rock Canyon State Park; and OHV Open Areas including Jawbone Canyon, Dove Springs, and Spangler Hills.

Jawbone Canyon Road, which bisects the OHV Open Area, is East Kern County's most significant gateway to back country recreation. This area is used by many members of the public to access a wide variety of recreational activities, including: hiking, hunting, bird watching, equestrian use, rock hounding, boating at Lake Isabella, painting and other artistries, and history seeking.

Mojave Desert communities that enjoy this connectivity are California City, Randsburg, Johannesburg, Red Mountain, and Kelso Valley. Also, mountain communities such as Lake Isabella and Havilah are served by the trail linkages from these areas. These linkages provide important services for users, such as food and fuel, and help visitors and local businesses connect with each other.

The OHV Open Area is clearly separated from all highway uses by existing and maintained fences, and there are no highway crossings within the project area. With more users staying on maintained trails, we can expect fewer illegal highway crossings.

Some of the major access points served by these networks are: US Highway 395 between Kramer Junction and Ridgecrest; State Highway 178 (designated the "178 Corridor –Palace to the Pinnacles" by Kern County) along Walker Pass;

Highway 58 serving California City; State Highway 14 between Jawbone Canyon and Walker Pass; the Red Rock-Randsburg and the Garlock roads connecting Jawbone Canyon to the tri-city area of Randsburg, Johannesburg and Red Mountain;

the Red Mountain-Trona Road that provides numerous access points within the Spangler OHV Open Area; and

California City Boulevard and the Twenty Mule Team Parkway provides interior access between Mojave and Randsburg.

There are also over 20 major maintained dirt roads within these networks including the Red Rock-Inyokern Road, Kelso Valley Road, the Savoy Road, the Randsburg-Mojave Road, and the especially well traveled Jawbone Canyon Road.

## 2. Rerouting Requirements

### Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

## Additional Documentation

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**  
Attachments: [Jawbone general work area](#)
3. **Project-Specific Maps**  
Attachments: [Project Area Trail Map](#)  
[Overview of Rand Moutains Land Management area](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

## Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:				Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	Friends of Jawbone				
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations- Trail Maintenance and Support (FINAL)			<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	G09-04-13-G02
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>For the Jawbone Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) / Dove Springs open area, and Rand Mountains Management Area (RMMA) trail networks, on going trail maintenance is urgently important due to the extraordinary number of users experienced by these trails. As trails become "whooped out" or develop washboards or washouts, users seeking to avoid the rough spots gradually ride to the outside resulting in unnecessarily wide trails. Poor trail conditions can also result in users creating their own paths of travel outside of the designated route network, which endangers the sensitive resources. Regular and on going trail maintenance is essential to preserving a safe and environmentally compatible network of designated routes of travel.</p> <p>Trails that are groomed attract a greater number of motorized users than those that are not groomed. Through regular maintenance, trails with deep "whoops" and washboards will be smoothed, and trails that develop rain ruts will be repaired. Even normal wear and tear would be corrected periodically to prevent trails from being widened by users.</p> <p>There are five tasks that make up this specific project that consist of the following:</p> <p>Task #1: The FOJ will focus on the maintaining of larger access roads and trails in coordination with the Land Manager. Our tasks will utilize equipment i.e. grader and tractor gannon box best suited for use on wider roads and will leave other smaller more narrow type repairs/maintenance to the BLM using much smaller equipment i.e. a SWECO and John Deer dozer.</p> <p>Under a regular maintenance schedule we can achieve better user satisfaction with the designated trail network, and thereby better protect the areas resources. To support the rigorous maintenance requirements of these trails, it is important that we hire full time equipment operators/maintenance workers for the truck mounted self contained auger system, which are included as part of this project application.</p> <p>This project overall enhances the protection for sensitive areas by identifying for the general public the appropriate access network to avoid impacts. The primary purpose of this task is to encourage on-trail use and discourage and ban off-trail travel.</p> <p>Task #2: The FOJ are asking for funding to use contract portable toilets to be placed in the town of Randsburg Kern County areas to support up to five major national holiday weekends per year, there will be a two standard toilet, one handicap with wash station made available to the public during those times. These are necessary due to the extreme large numbers of visitors to these areas.</p> <p>Task #3: In our continuing efforts to promote responsible riding habits and respect for the environment, we are asking for the hiring of two Park Attendants to be on the ground as part of our outreach programs to keep in touch with the visitors a little more closely and be a very visible presence primarily to assist visitors and monitor crowds and direct Law enforcement officers to problem areas and or inform them of suspicious or illegal activities. The intention is to offer more direct contact to our visitors and by helping keep areas clean and clear of trash etc. It is important to realize that while some duties seem duplicate of Land managers duties or tasks, that FOJ performs its work in an entirely different project area then that of our BLM counter parts, so duplication is pretty much eliminated.</p>				

Task #4: There is a need for The FOJ to support as much on-equipment maintenance as possible to reduce costs of ownership and also reduce down time on high use equipment/vehicles. This task is to purchase a limited amount of shop tools/equipment necessary to perform on equipment repairs, replacements and troubleshoot equipment problems within the capability of our hired or volunteer work force.

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	Heavy Equipment Operator Notes : Operates Grader/Tractor, dump truck & water tanker as needed for the year.  Pays for 1 1/2 man years of labor.	3120.000	33.580	HRS	104,770.00	0.00	104,770.00
	Maintenance Worker Notes : These are 2 dedicated personnel required to drive/operate a special rig equipped with a motorized/hydraulic self contained auger system for installing post and other signage.	4160.000	22.850	HRS	95,056.00	0.00	95,056.00
	Other-Project Coordinator Notes : The project Coordinator is the key manager to the success of all the work being planned and executed in the project area. The responsibilities to manage/plan the day-to-day and monthly utilization of the maintenance equipment and manpower needs are very demanding and require a high level of expertise/experience.  Source: CA Occupational Guide, Job Title: General/Operations Manager Kern County, wages for 2009.	480.000	57.000	HRS	27,360.00	0.00	27,360.00
	Seasonal Maintenance Worker	5.000	300.000	DAY	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: Friends of Jawbone  
Application: Ground Operations- Trail Maintenance and Support (FINAL)

2/28/2010

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Notes : Pays for 2 seasonal workers for 5 weekends during the year at \$50.00 per person per day at 3 days per weekend event. (SCA Crew)						
Other-Volunteer maintenance workers/supp Notes : This is for persons who will volunteer during the year for events and clean up activities as well as assist in some labor work, generally on weekends.	600.000	19.500	HRS	0.00	11,700.00	11,700.00
Other-Recreational planner Notes : BLM Staff member who will validate and oversee various work efforts the FOJ do related to ground disturbing activities and provide direction where applicable.	173.000	30.000	HRS	0.00	5,190.00	5,190.00
Park Attendant Notes : Pays for two people that will be mostly FOJ/BLM eyes & ears on the ground to provide assistance to the visitors as part of our out reach scenario keeping visitors informed as well as performing routine light maintenance and cleaning of restrooms. As well as reporting issues with trails and other operation issues.  That all efforts will be made not to duplicate efforts in these areas.	4160.000	20.140	HRS	83,782.00	0.00	83,782.00
Other-OHV Visitor Coordinator Notes : Supports FOJ with a person who has primary contact with visitors via phone communications addressing open, restricted areas and overall general OHV information and events. Where to find other data and points out other related activities related to OHV recreation. This person is provided by BLM Ridgecrest as a volunteer.	1560.000	20.150	HRS	0.00	31,434.00	31,434.00
Other-Grant Administrator Notes : Pays for a Grant administrator for a year period.	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>Total for Staff</b>				314,468.00	48,324.00	362,792.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
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2/28/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Portable Restroom Rentals	5.000	300.000	EA	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Brown sign posts	1000.000	10.450	EA	10,450.00	0.00	10,450.00
	Other-Peeler posts	1000.000	13.130	EA	13,130.00	0.00	13,130.00
	Other-Various Post decals Notes : These are decals with various markings for trails/routes numbers, reflective strips and warning text. We have provided an average price for these items, they can vary from \$.65 to \$3.57 each.	1600.000	3.760	EA	6,016.00	0.00	6,016.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				29,596.00	0.00	29,596.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Other-Equipment minor repairs/parts Notes : provides for the replacement of hoses, tubing etc related to auger equipment operation wear & tear.	1.000	2800.000	MISC	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00
	Other-Equipment/ truck minor maintenance Notes : Allows for routine maintenance for one year, oil changes, tire replacements or wheel damages and other non-scheduled breakage that can occur due to austere operations. This is considered small and incidental maintenance.  This cost also pays for all equipment vehicles.	1.000	7880.000	MISC	7,880.00	0.00	7,880.00
	Other-Grader/Tractor scraper blades Notes : Pays for grader/tractor scraper blades at \$159.00 each times 5 blades changed out 3 times per year.	3.000	793.000	EA	2,379.00	0.00	2,379.00
	Other-Equipment fuels Notes : Pays for all equipment operating fuels for the year.	8458.000	3.080	MISC	26,051.00	0.00	26,051.00



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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Other-Use of Grader Notes : Grader at \$52.45 hour, = \$314.70 per day at 200 days.  All Equipment use estimates were based on the CA DOT, Division of Construction, Equipment Rental Rates as of 31 March 2010.	200.000	314.700	DAY	0.00	62,940.00	62,940.00
Other-Use of Bobcat Notes : Bobcat @ \$22.44 Hr.= \$135.00 per day at 60 days per year.  Source: All Equipment use estimates were based on the CA DOT, Division of Construction, Equipment Rental Rates as of 31 March 2010.	60.000	135.000	DAY	0.00	8,100.00	8,100.00
Other-Use of Tractor/Skip Loader Notes : Tractor Skip loader and gannon box.  \$30.08 per hour = \$180.00 per day @ 132 days use.  Source: All Equipment use estimates were based on the CA DOT, Division of Construction, Equipment Rental Rates as of 31 March 2010.	132.000	180.000	DAY	0.00	23,760.00	23,760.00
Other-Use of Dump Truck & Water Tanker Notes : Pays for intermittent use of 2 axle over road dump truck and use of a 3 axle water tanker during the year.  The avg use rental costs are based on the dump truck (\$42.48Hr) which a lesser cost per hour then the tanker which will be used a little less.  \$42.58 hour = \$255.48 per day times days used.  Source: All Equipment use estimates were based on the CA DOT,	45.000	255.480	DAY	0.00	11,497.00	11,497.00

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2/28/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Division of Construction, Equipment Rental Rates as of 31 March 2010.						
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				39,110.00	106,297.00	145,407.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-10 Ton air jack	1.000	1475.000	EA	1,475.00	0.00	1,475.00
	Other-Multi-use storage/bin cabinet	1.000	1600.000	EA	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
	Other-Commercial High Press Cleaner Notes : Pays for a commercial high pressure spray washing system	1.000	1485.000	EA	1,485.00	0.00	1,485.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Purchases</b>				4,560.00	0.00	4,560.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
	Other-General/multi-use shop tools Notes : Pays for a variety of shop hand tools, hammers, drill sets and bits. wrenches, sockets etc.  BLM Ridgcrest F.O. is supporting the match for these items.	1.000	3316.000	MISC	1,873.00	1,443.00	3,316.00
	Other-Shop safety gear/storage Notes : This costs covers in shop items such as safety gear for welding, 2 heavy duty work benches, vice, welding misc attachments and other shop storage lockers and cart.  BLM Ridgecrest F.O. is providing match for these items.	1.000	1966.000	MISC	0.00	1,966.00	1,966.00
	Other-Shop Air compressor/welder plus Notes : Pays for commercial size air compressor, welding machine, hoses, air guns/hammers. In shop tool roll around chests and a truck bed mount tool shed used for field work as needed.  Note, the items (compressor/Welder) are listed here since neither	1.000	2591.000	MISC	0.00	2,591.00	2,591.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
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2/28/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	product has a total value of \$1,000.00; we are acquiring various supporting items.  BLM Ridgecrest F.O. will provide match for this entry.						
	Other-Commercial Delvery charges Notes : Pays for delivery of bulk supplies from various vendors through out the year. Estimating 3 deliveries during the year.	3.000	325.000	DAY	975.00	0.00	975.00
	<b>Total for Others</b>				2,848.00	6,000.00	8,848.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
	Indirect Costs-Costs for overhead/operat	1.000	34500.000	YR	34,500.00	0.00	34,500.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				426,582.00	160,621.00	587,203.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				426,582.00	160,621.00	587,203.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>426,582.00</b>	<b>160,621.00</b>	<b>587,203.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010  
Agency: Friends of Jawbone  
Application: Ground Operations- Trail Maintenance and Support (FINAL)

2/28/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	314,468.00	48,324.00	362,792.00	
2	Contracts	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	29,596.00	0.00	29,596.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	39,110.00	106,297.00	145,407.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	4,560.00	0.00	4,560.00	
6	Others	2,848.00	6,000.00	8,848.00	
7	Indirect Costs	34,500.00	0.00	34,500.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		426,582.00	160,621.00	587,203.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		426,582.00	160,621.00	587,203.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>426,582.00</b>	<b>160,621.00</b>	<b>587,203.00</b>	

## Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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### ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

#### ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

#### ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

### ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

### ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

The Ground Operations project proposes no task that would result in negative impacts to wetlands, navigable waters, or sensitive habitats and species. There are no wetlands or navigable waters found in the project area. Main operations that will be performed from funding requested with this grant include restoring trail tread, maintaining information kiosks, producing interpretive materials, installing regulatory and route signs, and maintaining management area fence lines along with barriers to prevent damage to sensitive areas and areas off limits to motorized vehicles. This project proposal is to continue implementing the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980), as amended, West Mojave Plan (2006), Jawbone-Butterbreds Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Plan (1982) and the Rand Mountains/Fremont Valley Management Plan (Rand Plan) (1993). The goal of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA) is to provide for the use of the public lands and resources in the region including economic, educational, scientific, and recreational uses, in a manner which enhances whenever possible and which does not diminish on balance the environmental, cultural, and aesthetic values of the desert. The West Mojave Plan is a habitat conservation plan and an amendment to the CDCA plan that presents a comprehensive strategy to conserve and protect the desert tortoise, the Mohave ground squirrel and over 100 other sensitive plants and animals and the natural communities of which they are part of. Each of these plans outlines numerous management actions to reach these goals. One primary action that is common to all of these plans is to implement a designated route system. The route networks are designed to provide access throughout the management areas while protecting the natural resources found in each area. The designated route systems provide interesting recreational opportunities including loop trips and point-to-point travel on existing routes while eliminating many redundant routes. Each of these designated route systems are to be signed and maintained, resulting in the protection of the

sensitive habitats and natural resources of these areas, while the closed routes are to be restored and re-vegetated to the extent possible. Through the implementation of these plans and their respective route systems, critical habitats and threatened species will be protected. These actions are designed to and should result in having positive effects on aquatic resources, wildlife habitats, cultural and natural resources.

All of these new undertakings, like the previous installations, will be performed following the environmental protection measures identified within the BLM Ridgecrest Resource Area – Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment – NEPA 96-70 and in accordance with the goals of the West Mojave Plan, Jawbone ACEC Plan, and Rand Mountain Fremont Valley Management Plan.

The FOJ will plan and coordinate all of its efforts with the BLM Ridgecrest FO prior to accomplishing any ground disturbing activities/maintenance.

#### **ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

This project will not add to or increase the level of cumulative effects to the environments in the project areas since this project is to continue the implementation efforts of the West Mojave plan and location specific plans within the Ridgecrest Resource Area. For a discussion of the cumulative effects for each of these management plans refer to each individual plan:

Refer to section 4.2.7 Cumulative Impacts (pages 4-135 thru 4-141) of the West Mojave Plan.

Refer to section VII Cumulative Impacts (pages 102-103) of the Rand Plan.

Refer to section XII Environmental Assessment of the Jawbone-Butterbret ACEC

Additionally, maintenance efforts are conducted following the guidelines and conditions of the Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment NEPA96-70 and in compliance with the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the aforementioned environmental assessment to further decrease any potential for cumulative effects.

Some of the guidelines and conditions that must be present to use heavy equipment and perform on-the ground actions are as follows:

- 1.The operator should minimize lowering of the roadbed when grading to avoid building up tall berms that may inhibit movement of desert tortoises. Berms higher than twelve inches and/or with a slope greater than 30 degrees will inhibit desert tortoise movements and should be pulled back into the roadbed.
- 2.The project inspector or on-site monitor shall inspect water ditches for desert tortoise burrows before moving/ shoveling any soil. If a desert tortoise burrow is present, the water ditch shall be left undisturbed if possible.
3. Road maintenance, particularly grading, will be scheduled to coincide with periods of maximum soil moisture, to maximize compaction of disturbed soils to minimize dust.
4. Any new road construction or existing road maintenance will use crowning, ditching, out-sloping, in-sloping, barrow ditches, drainage dips, low-water crossings, culverts, or lead-out ditches to control erosion and resource degradation...

A complete listing of these guidelines and conditions can be found in the above mentioned environmental assessment and biological opinion.

#### **ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts**

Sites with a slope exceeding 30 percent that are mechanically ripped will have rock or bale water bars, check dams, or geotextile netting installed to prevent accelerated erosion.

Through the implementation of proposed trail maintenance activities in compliance with the guidelines contained in the Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance & Surface Restoration Environmental Assessment NEPA96-70 and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion for the above-mentioned environmental assessment, no significant effect on the environment should occur. In reality, the reshaping and repairing of drainage structures and trail tread should reverse as well as prevent damage from occurring on steep slopes and erosive soils. Distribution of interpretive materials along with signing and barriers will actually result in having a positive effect on the natural environments. Through these management actions and education efforts the visitor will improve their understanding of the ongoing management actions to protect natural resources which hopefully will foster support for and actions of responsible use that will assist in achieving these goals. Additionally, the human environment will improve with improved route conditions and the removal of possible safety hazards created from such dangerous features as washouts or excessively rough trails.

Some of these type of repairs may go beyond FOJ capabilities, however, if this work is required, we will coordinate with the BLM and ask for assistance to complete these actions.

#### **ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

There are no highways designated as state scenic highways within the view sheds of the proposed project area.

Therefore, the implementation of these management plans shall have no affect on scenic resources associated with a designated state scenic highway.

#### **ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

#### **ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

Ground operations efforts within the Red Mountain and Eastern Sierra Sub-regions along with the implementation of the Rand Plan and the Jawbone-Butterbrecht ACEC Plan do not have the potential to cause substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources. Prior to carrying out surface disturbing activities cultural resource staff are consulted with to ensure that the staff conducting the work efforts are aware of the resources found within the area of potential effect. Furthermore staff and contractors are instructed of the standard protection measure contained within environmental assessments that states ?In the event that cultural or paleontological resources are discovered during maintenance or restoration activities, operations in the vicinity of the discovered resources shall cease immediately and the operator will notify the BLM. The BLM will, as appropriate, evaluate the significance of the find and determine the need for mitigation. The operator shall not proceed with potentially disturb

#### **ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

Ample OHV recreational opportunities exist within the Jawbone-Butterbrecht ACEC, Rand Mountains, and Red Mountain Subregion including over 500 miles of designated open routes throughout the limited use area and these areas are adjacent to over 70,000 acres of OHV open areas. The mountainous terrain existing in these areas provides unique OHV opportunities that are not found in other desert OHV recreation areas. With limited substitutes for these recreational opportunities, it is not likely that this project will lead user groups to recreate elsewhere. The project will increase use on

designated open and maintained routes throughout these areas, dispersing OHV recreation over a larger area and containing it to manageable routes. As a result, OHV use will not significantly increase in the vicinity of the project site. There is a chance for minor impacts off-site. Monitoring has shown that a small percentage of restored sites incur new "parallel" sections to the restored area as illegal riders trespass off-route and destroy natural resources. Sites that develop new parallel incursions will be signed closed and site locations will be given to law enforcement for reference and future enforcement planning.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[Resource Area-Wide Mx & Surface Restoration NEPA 96-70  
DNA for 2010](#)



## Evaluation Criteria

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700594

### 1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

### 2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to complete the project could result in loss of OHV opportunity because the massive amount of OHV visitors per year could result in a devastating impact to sensitive species their habitat along with having a negative impact on cultural resources. The Ridgecrest Field Office has developed a trail maintenance schedule plan that will minimize the impact from OHV recreational use. This plan is designed to avoid cultural resources, soil, wildlife and plant damage whenever possible and to maintain soil conservation standards. The scheduled trail maintenance reduces deferred maintenance and the overall amount of maintenance that is required to keep the riders on the trail system. The hope is that better maintained trails leads to less off-route riding and protecting neighboring private lands from trespass.

### 3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Our routine maintenance plan will assure that all trails will maintain proper road tread and maximize traffic safety along the project area.

Using the Land Managers guidance/procedures, our maintenance program will keep up with all erosion problem areas. This will prevent loss of trails when weather conditions have limited or closed trails due to water erosion.

The project area maintenance program will be using all necessary informational signage that will always alert, inform and offer basic emergency operations training and strict policy information applicable to the project area.

While the project area caters to a host of different types of OHV enthusiasts, unique care/consideration will be given to those trails most suitable for ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc.

FOJ has developed a Map series that identifies all legal trails, level of difficulty, and which type of OHV activity that trail will be suited for. This project area does provide for varied levels of riding difficulties.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The FOJ stakeholders have all participated in discussions at three different meetings to solicit public input into the development of this grant proposal. These public meetings have included the BLM Ridgecrest FO management personnel, also.

Ridgecrest Steering Committee, on February 25, 2010.  
Friends of Jawbone, on January 20, February 17, 2010.  
OHV Leadership Meeting on February 9, 2010.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Bureau of Land Management (Ridgecrest Field Office), Kern County parks and Recreation, Private Property Owners Kern County Sheriff, California City Police, Rands Improvement Association

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☒ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)

- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- ☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

It is one of our primary program goals to provide recreational opportunities while protecting and avoiding impacts to cultural and natural resources. To achieve this goal we maintain physical barriers, such as fences in sensitive areas to control OHV encroachment and impacts. We provide trash dumpsters and 1000 gallon vaulted sanitary toilet facilities in some of our areas to reduce waste. All aspects of routine route maintenance include the installation or maintenance of existing erosion control features to prevent and eliminate the effects of erosion and degradation to all natural, cultural, and historic resources. BLM policy requires NEPA documentation and inventory for all surface disturbance projects and undertakings prior to the commencement of any and all projects. If it is determined that a riparian area is not being adequately protected from OHV or other damage, then we would look for alternates, that would best protect those areas.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Reconstructed Kiosks and Recycled vegetation]

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ No (No points) ☐ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Camping
- ☒ Birding
- ☒ Hiking
- ☒ Equestrian trails
- ☐ Fishing
- ☒ Rock Climbing
- ☐ Other (Specify)

